Vol. II. Numb. 30.

The EXAMINER.

From Thursday *June* 19, to Thursday *June* 26. 1712.

BY whatever means it is come about, We and our Allies the *Dutch* have exchanged Opinions with each other upon one Point of great Importance: It is well known, That at the time We in *England* were worked up into that ſanguine Temper, by the Arts and Induſtry of the then Miniſtry, of declaring againſt Peace without the entire Reſtitution of the whole *Spaniſh Monarchy*, the *Dutch* laughed at the Scheme as Chimerical; and declared the Projectors of it could have no other View, but to obſtruct a Peace. It was the Intereſt of ſome Perſons then at the Helm here, to purſue the War at any rate, for the better Eſtabliſhment of that Sovereign Power they had lately erected; the *D——ch* were hired to come into theſe Meaſures by the exceſſive Diſproportion of our Charge, and at the Price of our Barrier-Treaty, wherein the Trade of theſe Kingdoms, and the Honour of the *Britiſh* Name, were at once ſacrificed. 'Tis viſible, however, they ſtill continued in the ſame Opinion, that it was impracticable to recover *Spain*; for they ſtruck out that Article, when it was tranſmitted to them from *England* in the Counter-Project, and never ſent their Quota either to *Catalonia* or *Portugal*; leaving us to purſue, at a bloody ruinous Expence, that *Ignis Fatuus* that danced before us, they prudently applied themſelves and their Strength, to add every Year to their own Dominions.

But now that We have tried, and found this Deſign wholly impracticable; now that the Q——n and M——ry, and the wiſeſt as well as the greateſt part of the Kingdom, are of the ſame Sentiments; truly the *D——ch* have found out, that nothing is ſo eaſy, or ſo neceſſary, as to recover the *Spaniſh* Dominions, and we ſhall ſee at the bottom that this is no impolitick Opinion; for, our endeavouring at that Impoſſibility was of infinite Advantage to them; the great Diverſion we gave the *French* Troops in *Spain*, made the Way plainer for the reſt of our Forces to Conquer the *Netherlands* for Them: So that one may juſtly compare the Allies to a Set of ſubtle Chymiſts, encouraging ſome credulous wealthy Perſon to purſue his Search after the Philoſopher's Stone; they know the End their Patron propoſes is never to be arrived at; but by the way, many uſeful Diſcoveries may be made, which they are wiſe enough to keep to themſelves; whilſt the honeſt-natured Projector, led on by vain Hopes, and the Artifices of ſuch whom he eſteems his greateſt Friends, puffs inceſſantly at the Bellows, melts away all his Fortune in a Crucible, and becomes the Jeſt and Scorn of the whole World.

Yet upon a good Occaſion, perhaps for ſomething as beneficial as the Barrier-Treaty, it is to be hoped, the *D—ch* might be brought to recede even from this new and favourite Opinion, ſince it is too notorious to be denied, that even while the Negotiations ſo much clamoured againſt have been on foot, that if Her M——y would have conſented that the ſcandalous Fifteenth Article of the ſaid Barrier-Treaty ſhould have continued ſtill in Force, and have ſubmitted to tie her Subjects to that ignominious Bargain, of being capable of receiving no Advantages but what We ſhould ſhare with the *D—ch*, that in that Caſe, all Diſputes, which the *Faction* have made uſe of at this time, had been over, and the *Faction* it ſelf, and the Hopes of the *Factious*, entirely cruſhed, even by thoſe very Friends who now uphold them; nay, and the great Article of *Spain* and the *Weſt-Indies* been yielded by the *D——ch* themſelves; and then this weak and corrupt M——ry had been as effectually ſkreened as ever the other were. But, weak and treacherous as they are, they ſcorn to copy after their Predeceſſors of the Barrier-Treaty, and to purchaſe their own Security and Advantage, at the Expence of their Country's Intereſt and Honour.

We have all ſorts of Examples, let the Point contended for be of what Nature ſoever, of the Implacableneſs of Rivals; but none ſtronger, than what, during the preſent Negotiations, may be brought from the Conduct of the *D——ch*: All that has been done to oblige them for above theſe twenty Years paſt by the good-natur'd *Engliſh*, has not been able to make them forget their former Sentiments againſt *Britain*, their old Rival in Trade; this hath cauſed them to take ſuch deſperate Reſolutions; this hath occaſioned ſuch Diviſions amongſt the Allies, that they have judged it more eligible to run the riſque of letting *France* get too much, than *England* to gain any thing. By their Behaviour they have forced our Nation to ſhew their Weakneſs and Inability to ſupport any longer the Burden of the War. Had the *D——ch* come in at firſt into Her M——y's Meaſures, this Diſunion of our Allies had never appeared; this Nakedneſs of the *Engliſh* Affairs, which could not have been too cautiouſly concealed, had not been expoſed to view; We had entered as one Man into the Congreſs, to treat with the Enemy: and

France,

France, who has agreed to the Q——n's Demands, under all theſe Circumſtances, ſo diſadvantageous to Us, and ſo promiſing to Them, it may reaſonably be ſuppoſed, might have been brought to offer more, if they had not found that Her Ma——y, by ſome of Her Allies, was envied the Glory of being at the Head of the Treaty.

It is impoſſible to account for the Conduct of the *D——ch*, during the whole Courſe of the Negotiation, upon any Principle but this: It is certain, and there is no *Whig* dare deny it, that the whole Diſpute for many Months paſt in *Holland*, hath been concerning the Advantages that the *D——ch* knew were to accrue to *Britain* by the Treaty, which they have traverſed to the utmoſt of their Power; ſo that what our Enemies have yielded without Controverſy, our Allies, and their Abettors at home, are ſtill ſtruggling to deprive us of: A Return, no way proportioned to the Expence We have been at to preſerve Them.

The *D——ch* were inſtructed by their *Whiggiſh* Friends here, to make uſe of this Dilemma: They were taught their Leſſon, and were told, that at worſt, if they ſhould not be able to wreſt the Negotiations out of the Q——'s Hands, her native Goodneſs, and the general Inclinations of her People, would prompt her to take Care of the Intereſts of the *States*, both with Reſpect to their Barrier, and their Trade: And if they were able to wreſt it out of her Hands, the Ball was at their Foot, they had what they deſired; *France* would ſee, that it was by *Holland* only they could hope to attain a General Peace; the *D—ch* would be at the Head of the next Treaty themſelves, when they would be ſure to take as little Care of the Intereſts of *Britain*, and as much of their own, as they did in former Treaties.

Upon this noble Scheme, at the ſame time as they have been working up Sedition here, and by all Artifices poſſible obſtructing the Peace abroad, they have been ſtill tampering with *France*, in order to break this Treaty off, that they might put themſelves at the Head of a new one. Several undeniable Inſtances of this kind might be mentioned; let it ſuffice to take notice of what their old Treaty-Jobber, Monſieur *Pet—m* hath lately boaſted of, That he had made Overtures to the *French* of this ſort, and that they had been well received; Therefore, the preſent Diſpute between *England* and *Holland*, is not whether a General Peace ſhall be made or no; nor whether *Spain* and the *Indies* ſhall be left to the Duke of *Anjou*; nor concerning the particular Terms of Peace for the Allies; nor whether *France* has offered enough; or, if a good Peace be attainable; but, who ſhall make the Peace? Whether *Britain* ſhall ſtill be the *Dupe* of *H—ll—d*, and gain nothing but Contempt for all her Blood and Treaſure ſpent? Or whether the *D——ch* ſhall be ſatisfied with almoſt all they ask in point of Commerce, and with a glorious Country and ſecure Barrier, with the Alloy or Mortification, that the *Engliſh* have the Honour of procuring thoſe Advantages to the St—tes, and gaining ſuch for themſelves, as would by no Means have been granted them by the good Will or Conſent of their Allies?

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